

Remarks

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected to claims 1-4, 11, 12, 14, 34, 38-53, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Spurgin. The applicant has cancelled independent claims 1 and 34, thus rendering the Examiner's rejection of these claims moot. Regarding new independent claim 56, the applicant has combined claim 16 with claims 1, 2, and 4, thus making new claim 56 patentable. In addition, applicant has amended claims 3, 11 and 14 to depend on new independent claim 56, thus making these claims patentable. Regarding new claim 57, the applicant has combined claims 34, and 35, thus making new claim 57 patentable. Regarding claims 36 and 37, these claims have been amended to depend on new independent claim 57, and as such these claims should now be patentable. Regarding claims 38, 39, 44, 45, 50-55, these claims have been amended to depend on new claim 56, and as such should now be patentable. Regarding claims 42, 43, 48, 49, and 58-63, these claims have been amended to depend on new independent claim 57, and as such should now be patentable.

The Examiner has rejected to claims 5, 7, and 9, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious over Spurgin in view of Japanese reference 5-338573. The applicant has withdrawn claim 5 and as such the rejection regarding this claim is moot. Regarding claims 7 and 9, applicant has amended these claims to depend on new independent claim 56, and as such should now be patentable.

Regarding new independent claim 65, this claims are based on claim 57 and in view of the cited art should be allowable. Regarding claim 66, this claim depends on claim 65, and as

such should be allowable.

The applicant has not exceeded the total number of claims already presented to the Examiner, and as such the present application should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicants claims are patentable over the cited prior art and the application should be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. O'Rourke

Reg. No.: 27,665

BODNER & O'ROURKE, L.L.P.

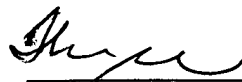
425 Broadhollow Road

Melville, New York 11747

(631) 249-7500

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Response was mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 17th day of March, 2006.



Thomas A. O'Rourke